



VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM 11/16/17

Senior Center First Floor Conference Room

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), Heather Remoff, Brian Hasbrouck, Pete Howard (Secretary)

CITIZEN CORNER #5 ENTERPRIZE FUNDS

Gordon submitted the article and it was published 11/16/17. The editor explained the delay was caused by shortage of space. The Advocate is using fewer pages in its current issues.

BUSINESS LAND ASSESSMENT

Gordon drafted a letter (Ref 1) to Mary Winstanley O'Conner. (Refer to last month's discussion) The Members reviewed it by email and he emailed it. She has not replied.

TOWN BUDGETING PROCESS

Gordon suggested this topic as a wrap up of the Citizen Corner series. We will ask the Deputy Town Manager to review the article before he visits us in December. The article will be timed to be published around when the budget is released to the BoS & FinCom. Pete will draft it.

TOWN LEADERSHIP INTERVIEWS

Gordon & Heather interviewed Adam Chapdelaine. They used a small recorder provided by Vision 2020. Heather is learning how to download the recording to her computer. Plan is to transcribe it and then draft a full length version of the interview for posting on the town's website and an abridged version as an Advocate article. She has begun this process. Both Heather & Gordon enjoyed the interview as, they think, Adam did as well. The interview lasted 50 min.

They plan to interview the Superintendent in December.

VISION 2020 REVISIONING

Gordon provided the Standing Committee's introduction to this process (Ref 2). They plan to change the name to Envision Arlington. In a subsequent email Juli Brazile announced that the annual survey will be conducted on line to avoid the expense and equipment damage incurred when Town staff scan the paper forms using Town equipment. Paper forms will be available at the library and will be entered manually by volunteers.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST TRAINING

Gordon, Pete & Heather took the self-training course provided by the State Ethics Commission. This training is required of town employees & volunteers by the State every 2 years. The Town Counsel has determined that Vision 2020 members qualify for training. We used Gordon's iPhone and his desktop for display. Gordon will submit the certificates as required. We thought the joint process was effective and efficient. Brian and David had completed the training previously.

FRTG MEETING GUESTS: Gordon to arrange
Deputy Town Manager Dec
Treasurer Collector Jan or Feb

Next mtg Dec 21

Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in Senior Center

Ref 1 Email to O'Conner on Land Assessment

Ref 2 A New Chapter for Vision 2020

Dear Mary,

Our group (V2020 Fiscal Resources Task Group) is writing you in your capacity as a member of the Board of Assessors

In passing one of our members noticed that three properties on Dudley recently sold for \$6.1M each as reported in the Advocate,

We confirmed those values using your online database and determined the purchaser to be Arlington-Dudley Realty LLC..

We note also that they were previously assessed at significantly lower fair market values (\$32,800 to \$1,360,600) .. Quite a difference!

Upon further examination of Dudley properties using your online database .. We noted the following.. Three additional properties which sold for \$41,200,000 each which are also assessed at much lower fair market values (\$698,700 to \$704,200)

. This particular owner (Nostalgia Properties LLC) also appears to have purchased an additional 12 properties in the same general geographic location,

Also at a listed purchase price of \$41,200,00 each .. And once again, each of these properties are assessed at much lower fair market values.

As you can imagine these observations raise several questions and concerns

.. The primary ones being

.. Why are previously sold properties currently assessed at such a low current fair market value

.. And will/has the current re-assessment process correct/corrected these apparent errors in assessed fair market value

.. In addition should similar discrepancies exist in the assessment database

.. Have they also been corrected during the re-assessment process

We look forward to learning from your offices how these items have been addressed and hopefully corrected during the re-assessment process .. including the use of these transaction values in a proper determination of fair market land and property values.

Sincerely,

Gordon and David

Gordon Jamieson and David Garbari

Co-Chairs V2020 Fiscal Resources Task Group

A New Chapter for Vision 2020

update 11-16-17 [rev.1,Brucie]

Goal: Broadly speaking, Vision 2020's mission is to support town-wide resident participation in identifying problems and devising solutions in partnership with town leaders, employees and elected officials.

Strategy: We would like to raise our profile and get more residents involved with Vision 2020 through public engagement in discussing and revising the Town Goals. Over the next few years, we need to take each Goal and work through a process.

At the same time, it makes sense for us to change our name to one that doesn't reference a year in the future. We like the idea of keeping "vision" as part of the name because it's been around for 25 years. "Envision Arlington" seems like a natural choice for us, and one that accurately describes our mission. The Standing Committee will ask Town Meeting to approve that name change in 2018.

We are attempting to capture values we hold in common as a community, so we expect the process to be complex at times. Some goals may be divided or re-combined so that similar ideas are grouped into a broader value. We recognize that not all values we want to express lead to action plans and volunteer groups, so we need to be sure the focus begins with broad values.xs

The final result of this process will be our proposal to Town Meeting to adopt a set of "Community Values" to replace the current "Town Goals" and a set of recommended strategies for improving in each area. The values won't change very often, but the specific strategies should be reviewed and updated over time and included in the Vision 2020 report to Town Meeting.

What does this mean for existing Task Groups?

1. Because the process for these discussions (called "convening") isn't fully established, we are planning to start working first on goals that don't have task groups.
 2. The Standing Committee intends to lead the process. We are not volunteering task groups to do more work. That said, members of task groups will need to join together with members from other groups to discuss and strategize.
 3. One hoped-for outcome of the public process is to draw attention to all the work related to each goal so that more volunteers feel energized and willing to help. Additionally, collaboration with other groups would spread some of the work around and get us away from the concept that a Task Group is solely responsible for planning and organizing for "their" shared community value.
 4. Finally, we hope that some "working groups" can be established to accomplish specific tasks identified in the convening. Volunteers working on those projects would report to a Task Group or to the Standing Committee, but would not need to have regular meetings with agendas and minutes. The concept here is that new volunteers would be less reluctant to commit to a single project with a clear end-point and would be more open to attending task group meetings once they knew more people and felt connected to Vision 2020.
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